



NEWS RELEASE



For Release: Thursday, February 05, 2015

15-202-BOS

NEW ENGLAND INFORMATION OFFICE: Boston, Mass.

Technical information: (617) 565-2327 • BLSInfoBoston@bls.gov • www.bls.gov/regions/new-england/

Media contact: (617) 565-2326 • BLSMediaBoston@bls.gov

County Employment and Wages in Rhode Island - Second Quarter 2014

Rhode Island's only large county, Providence, reported an employment gain of 1.7 percent from June 2013 to June 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2013 annual average employment.) Employment in Rhode Island's largest county accounted for 59 percent of statewide employment in June 2014.

Nationally, 305 of the 339 large counties had employment gains from June 2013 to June 2014. The largest over-the-year percentage gain was recorded in Weld, Colo., (8.9 percent). Atlantic, N.J., had the largest over-the-year decrease in employment (-1.6 percent). Nationwide, the 339 largest counties made up 71.8 percent of total U.S. employment in June 2014.

The average weekly wage in Providence County was \$928 in the second quarter of 2014, 2.2 percent higher than it was one year earlier. (See [table 1](#).) Nationally, the average weekly wage increased 2.1 percent over the year to \$940 in the second quarter 2014.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the four counties in Rhode Island with employment below 75,000. None of these counties registered an average weekly wage above the national average in the second quarter of 2014. Newport (\$908) had the highest average weekly wage among the smaller counties while Bristol County had the lowest average weekly wage at \$760. (See [table 2](#).)

Large County Wage Changes

Providence County's 2.2-percent wage gain ranked 123rd among the 339 largest U.S. counties. Nationwide, Midland, Texas, ranked first in average weekly wage growth, with an increase of 9.0 percent from the second quarter of 2013. Douglas, Colo., placed second with a wage gain of 8.8 percent, followed by Hillsborough, N.H. (7.4 percent) and Collier, Fla. (6.8 percent).

Twenty-two large counties nationwide experienced over-the-year declines in average weekly wages. Williamson, Texas, had the largest average weekly wage decrease with a loss of 2.7 percent.

Westchester, N.Y., had the second largest decrease in average weekly wages, followed by Lake, Ind.; Bibb, Ga.; Washington, D.C.; and Chittenden, Vt.

Large County Average Weekly Wages

Providence County, with an average weekly wage of \$928 in the second quarter of 2014, although ranked in the top-half (118th), was not among 109 large counties nationwide with wages above the U.S. average of \$904. Santa Clara, Calif., held the top position with an average weekly wage of \$1,886. San Mateo, Calif., was second with an average weekly wage of \$1,740, followed by New York, N.Y., (\$1,732), San Francisco, Calif., (\$1,593), and Washington, D.C., (\$1,569).

More than two-thirds of the largest U.S. counties (230) reported average weekly wages below the national average in the second quarter of 2014. The lowest weekly wage was reported in Horry, S.C. (\$548), followed by the Texas counties of Cameron (\$585) and Hidalgo (\$608). Wages in these lowest-ranked counties were less than one-third of the average weekly wage reported for the highest-ranked county, Santa Clara, Calif. (\$1,886).

Average Weekly Wages in Rhode Island's Smaller Counties

All four counties in Rhode Island with employment below 75,000 had average weekly wages lower than the national average of \$940. Bristol County (\$760) had the lowest weekly wage in the state, followed by Washington (\$800). (See [table 2](#).)

When all five counties in Rhode Island were considered, none reported wages above the national average. Overall, one county reported wages below \$800, two reported wages ranging from \$800 to \$899, and two reported wages of \$900 or above. (See [chart 1](#).)

Additional Statistics and other Information

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in table 3. For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the Technical Note or visit the QCEW Web site at www.bls.gov/cew.

An annual bulletin, *Employment and Wages Annual Wages Online*, features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2013 edition of this publication, which was published in September 2014, contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2014 version of the news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2013* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn13.htm. The 2014 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2015.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339.

Technical Note

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.4 million employer reports cover 137.8 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cew/; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States and the largest county in Rhode Island, second quarter 2014

Area	Employment			Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level ⁽³⁾	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14 ⁽²⁾	National ranking by percent change ⁽³⁾
United States ⁽⁴⁾	137,776.4	2.0	--	\$940	--	2.1	--
Rhode Island.....	472.9	1.6	--	898	19	2.0	27
Providence, R.I.....	279.2	1.7	167	928	118	2.2	123

⁽¹⁾ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁽²⁾ Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

⁽³⁾ Ranking does not include the county of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

⁽⁴⁾ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Rhode Island, second quarter 2014

Area	Employment June 2014	Average Weekly Wage ⁽¹⁾
United States ⁽²⁾	137,776,364	\$940
Rhode Island.....	472,920	898
Bristol County.....	14,098	760
Kent County	74,958	828
Newport County	40,713	908
Providence County.....	279,241	928
Washington County.....	54,053	800

⁽¹⁾ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁽²⁾ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2014

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	137,776.4	2.0	\$940	--	2.1	--
Alabama	1,872.9	0.7	806	36	1.6	38
Alaska	344.9	0.5	1,014	8	4.6	2
Arizona	2,486.0	1.9	888	21	1.3	43
Arkansas	1,168.1	1.5	745	47	1.5	41
California	15,905.6	2.8	1,072	6	2.4	15
Colorado	2,439.3	3.4	960	14	2.9	8
Connecticut	1,676.6	0.6	1,155	3	2.5	13
Delaware	429.0	2.5	976	11	1.2	44
District of Columbia	732.6	1.0	1,569	1	-0.5	51
Florida	7,628.6	3.1	839	28	2.1	23
Georgia	4,036.3	3.1	882	22	1.7	35
Hawaii	624.6	1.1	845	26	2.7	10
Idaho	659.2	2.5	697	51	2.2	22
Illinois	5,836.9	1.5	988	10	1.9	32
Indiana	2,916.9	1.8	784	42	1.2	44
Iowa	1,547.8	1.6	780	43	3.0	7
Kansas	1,372.8	1.7	797	38	2.3	20
Kentucky	1,820.8	1.7	798	37	2.0	27
Louisiana	1,921.6	1.4	843	27	2.4	15
Maine	610.4	0.8	746	46	2.1	23
Maryland	2,594.4	0.9	1,020	7	1.6	38
Massachusetts	3,407.0	1.4	1,158	2	2.4	15
Michigan	4,164.7	2.3	897	20	2.3	20
Minnesota	2,782.0	1.3	947	16	1.9	32
Mississippi	1,101.1	0.5	705	50	2.0	27
Missouri	2,703.2	1.3	818	31	1.9	32
Montana	453.4	1.1	734	48	2.4	15
Nebraska	956.2	1.4	756	45	2.7	10
Nevada	1,210.1	3.4	833	30	0.6	50
New Hampshire	637.2	1.2	955	15	4.3	3
New Jersey	3,944.8	0.8	1,097	5	1.2	44
New Mexico	801.0	0.6	794	40	1.7	35
New York	8,965.2	1.8	1,146	4	2.4	15
North Carolina	4,080.7	2.4	818	31	1.2	44
North Dakota	453.0	4.4	936	17	5.5	1
Ohio	5,233.8	1.4	846	25	2.1	23
Oklahoma	1,578.0	1.0	816	33	2.6	12
Oregon	1,748.4	2.4	874	23	2.9	8

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, second quarter 2014 - Continued

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	June 2014 (thousands)	Percent change, June 2013-14	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, second quarter 2013-14	National ranking by percent change
Pennsylvania.....	5,719.8	1.0	933	18	1.6	38
Rhode Island.....	472.9	1.6	898	19	2.0	27
South Carolina.....	1,916.4	2.7	765	44	2.5	13
South Dakota.....	422.9	1.4	712	49	3.3	4
Tennessee.....	2,755.7	1.8	836	29	2.0	27
Texas.....	11,402.8	3.0	973	13	3.1	5
Utah.....	1,297.5	2.9	796	39	1.7	35
Vermont.....	307.0	1.0	813	35	0.7	49
Virginia.....	3,710.8	0.7	976	11	0.8	48
Washington.....	3,109.6	3.2	990	9	2.1	23
West Virginia.....	711.3	-0.3	792	41	1.4	42
Wisconsin.....	2,809.1	1.3	816	33	2.0	27
Wyoming.....	295.3	1.6	871	24	3.1	5
Puerto Rico.....	897.0	-2.0	504	(3)	0.6	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	37.8	-2.2	728	(3)	2.8	(3)

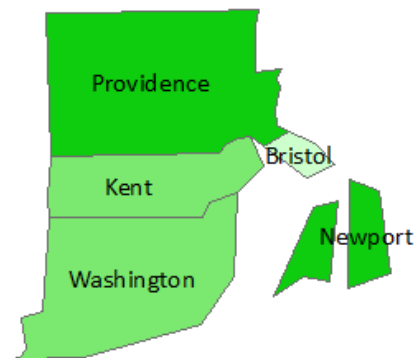
⁽¹⁾ Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

⁽²⁾ Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

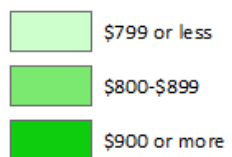
⁽³⁾ Data not included in the national ranking.

NOTE: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

Chart 1. Average weekly wages
by county in Rhode Island,
second quarter 2014



**Average weekly wage
(U.S. Average = \$940)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.